

Mr. DORGAN. This morning's news is very sad news for those of us who knew and loved Mary McGrory, one of the wonderful writers of our age, one of the really interesting thinkers and warm and wonderful human beings. According to the news reports, she died last evening at a hospital here in Washington, DC.

I wrote her a letter some months ago telling Mary, after she had fallen ill:

I have been waiting and hoping that I may again see your byline in the Washington Post. I remain hopeful that we will once again be able to start the day by reading a Mary McGrory column and then shaking our fist in the air, shouting: Yes that is what I should have said.

Mary never did get back to work. Her column never again appeared. But this Capitol Building, the op-ed pages of the Washington Post, and political discourse in this country for 50 years have been affected by what Mary thought, what Mary said, and what Mary wrote.

She was quite a remarkable person. She won a Pulitzer Prize. She covered the major events for over 50 years, and she wrote columns using words that were extraordinary. She would find ways to say things that most of us are at a loss to explain.

Often in the morning I would open the newspaper to see the Mary McGrory column and think how wonderfully she wrote. More than that, she was also a very special friend to many of us, in many ways. She would stand outside this Chamber, sometimes early in the morning, sometimes late at night, and she would get the story. She would do the hard work, ask the questions, follow people until she got answers, and then she would write her column. Her cousin, Brian McGrory, wrote a piece that appeared in the Boston Globe and the Washington Post about Mary. He probably describes her best, and in many ways brings a smile to those of us who knew Mary. He said:

While most Washington pundits closet themselves with their own profound thoughts, interrupted only by lunch at the Palm with the Secretary of Something, Mary employs old-fashioned tools: a sensible pair of shoes, a Bic, and a notebook. She haunts congressional hearings. She sits with the unwashed in the back of the White House briefing room.

He also said at the end of his article—this is an article that was written last November when Mary was ill:

Hers is a world of soft irony. She checks into elaborate spas in Italy every year, but while there, always gains a few pounds. She was audited by the Nixon administration and got a refund. At a stiff Washington party she once whispered to me, "Always approach the shrimp bowl like you own it."

Mary McGrory was a wonderful human being with a great sense of humor. But she wrote like the wind. I wish I could again see her byline. David Broder in January wrote a wonderful piece about Mary Mack. He began:

I am headed out this week for my 12th presidential campaign, but unlike the first 11, I will not have the company of my favorite traveling companion, Mary McGrory. The

great liberal columnist, surely the most elegant newspaper writer Americans have read over the past half-century, has been ill since last March and recently accepted the generous buyout offer given to veteran employees by the Post. Incomprehensible as it seems, she has finished her journalistic career.

Then David Broder, in his own inimitable style, describes Mary McGrory.

I think of Mary McGrory. I think of not just seeing her here in the Capitol, or having lunch with Mary. I think of the questions she would ask politicians. I was on the receiving end of a number of those questions: Always coming from the oblique, always a bit different, from a slightly different angle, always from a slightly different perspective. Often they were the questions others didn't ask or wouldn't ask. She had a very inquiring mind and she had a wonderful ability to write.

So we will no longer be blessed with the presence of Mary McGrory here in this Capitol Building and in this Capitol of the United States, covering the major events, which she started doing 50 years ago in the McCarthy hearings. But she will be in our thoughts forever. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mary's relatives.

I attended a service once at which Senator BYRD spoke. He finished with a quote from Thomas Moore. The last two lines were:

You can shatter, you can break the vase if you will,  
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

Although Mary has passed and all of us are saddened by the loss of a friend and America has lost one of the great writers in the last half century, Mary will remain with us forever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. It is my understanding we are still in morning business and we have about 5 or 6 minutes remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed and use that time up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from Montana, that is true. We extended your side an additional 10 minutes. Your time was gone, but now you have additional time. As to when it is used now—you were to get the first half; we were to get the second half. It is kind of a jump ball right now, so you have the floor for 11½ minutes.

#### EARTH DAY

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I thank my friend from Nevada and my good friend from Vermont. Today is Earth Day. Of course, most of us who are involved in agriculture, we don't set aside one specific day. Every day is Earth Day for those of us who use the

Earth to produce the wealth of the country.

Anyway, every year about this time they always release the index of leading environmental indicators, which gives us an overall measuring stick on how good or how bad we are doing in dealing with the environment. This press release came out of San Francisco. It is released by a group that is a think tank in Bozeman, MT. They brought out some information that we tend to forget when we talk about the environment. Steven Hayward wrote the press release. Of course we are doing better than a lot of people think we are doing.

Environmental quality is improving steadily, in some cases dramatically, in key areas with which we try to deal. Vehicle emissions are dropping about 10 percent per year as the fleet turns over to inherently cleaner vehicles, including SUVs. We are making progress. Ninety-four percent of the population is served by water systems that have reported no violation of any health-based standards.

We are getting better in trying to provide clean water for our citizens. There has been a 55-percent decline in toxic releases since 1988 even while total output of industries covered by this measurement has increased 40 percent. We are making progress. That is dramatic progress as far as quality is concerned.

Despite most popular assumptions, U.S. air quality tends to be found at least equal, if not slightly better, than in Europe. It seems we have a lot of people who distract and criticize us for our environmental policies.

This year's index includes a list of the media's best environmental reporting on that, which includes the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, the Atlantic Monthly, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the New Republic, and the Wall Street Journal.

In other words, all of these folks have earned their spurs, so to speak, in keeping the public informed on such matters.

There have also been notable improvements in our Government reporting with the EPA's first ever composite on national trends and State-based initiatives to improve water quality reporting and monitoring.

Private conservation efforts, such as Ducks Unlimited, and private water trusts have been highly successful as reported this year.

The index reports one of the few areas to show a decline in the quality is that of public lands. While funding and land allotments have increased, quality has deteriorated by the most significant measures. The root of the problem is excess of political management, and the answer can be found in innovative solutions such as land trusts and resource leases.

This year's index includes a special section comparing quality between the U.S. and Europe. We are winning that also.

The other ways:

Doomsaying and know-nothingism gets better headlines and work well for direct-mail fundraising . . . but a serious look at the data helps us to appreciate how far we've come, and helps us set priorities for the next generation of environmental activism.

Whenever we hear a lot of doomsaying that we are doing very badly, the scorecard reports to us overall a different kind of story. The only place we are not making any improvements at all is on the lands the Federal Government manages, not the land that is managed in the private sector.

I ask unanimous consent the entire text of the press release be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EARTH DAY IS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION:  
ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS MOSTLY POSITIVE

(By Steven Hayward, with Michael De Alessi, Holly L. Fretwell, Brent Haglund, Joel Schwartz, Ryan Stowers, and Sam Thernstrom)

SAN FRANCISCO.—The ninth annual Index of Leading Environmental Indicators, released today by the Pacific Research Institute and the American Enterprise Institute, shows that the environment continues to be America's single greatest policy success. Environmental quality has improved so much, in fact, that it is nearly impossible to paint a grim, gloom-and-doom picture anymore.

Environmental quality is improving steadily and in some cases dramatically in key areas: Average vehicle emissions are dropping about 10 percent per year as the fleet turns over to inherently cleaner vehicles, including modern SUVs; ninety-four percent of the population is served by water systems that have reported no violations of any health-based standards; there has been a 55-percent decline in toxic releases since 1988, even while total output of the industries covered by this measurement has increased 40 percent; and despite most popular assumptions, U.S. air quality trends are found to be at least equal, if not slightly better, than in Europe.

This year's Index includes a list of the media's best environmental reporting. Featured outlets include Boston Globe, Washington Post, Atlantic Monthly, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The New Republic, and Wall Street Journal.

There have also been notable improvements in government reporting, with the EPA's first-ever composite on national trends and state-based initiatives to improve water-quality monitoring.

Private conservation efforts, such as Ducks Unlimited and the Peregrine Fund, and private water trusts have been highly successful.

And recent findings in climate-change science also give reason for hope. Because the climate models have been based on flawed economic assumptions, there is even greater uncertainty now in the range of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions projections. This means the prognosis is probably not as grim as conventional wisdom would have us believe.

The Index shows that one of the few areas to show a decline in quality is that of public lands. While funding and land allotments have increased, quality has deteriorated by most significant measures. The root of the problem is an excess of political management, and the answer can be found in innovative solutions such as land trusts and resource leases.

This year's Index also includes a special section comparing air quality in the U.S. and Europe.

"Doomsaying and know-nothingism get better headlines and work well for direct-mail fundraising," said lead author Steven Hayward, "but a serious look at the data helps us appreciate how far we've come, and helps set priorities for the next generation of environmental activism."

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I yield the floor. I thank the Senator from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### MARY MCGRORY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as I came on the floor, I heard a discussion of several Senators about the passing of Mary McGrory.

The distinguished senior Senator from Utah, who is now on the floor, and I were talking to editors and others at a press gathering in Washington this morning. I mentioned Mary McGrory at the beginning of that.

When Marcelle and I first came to Washington, Mary was one of the first people we met. I always enjoyed my time with her. She was a great writer with searching questions, and did not suffer fools idly. She was very quick and very able in deflating those who had inflated themselves far beyond what they deserved.

She also helped so many people. I remember the girl from an orphanage she helped, referring to her as "Mary McGlory." Indeed, she has gone to her own glory now, but she made it possible for some others.

She was a remarkable person, a remarkable person who will not be matched. There will be many others who will carry the banner, but none will do it with her ability.

I also liked the fact every time she would take a vacation in Italy she would come and chat with me about it. My mother's family is still in Italy. We would discuss favorite recipes, notwithstanding our Irish names.

#### EARTH DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Earth Day usually marks the beginning of the President's and his green team's migration out to our Nation's parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.

Since this is an election year, I am sure they are ramping up their efforts to greenwash their environmental record with very nice photo ops.

Greenwash, like whitewash, doesn't stick. You have only to open the daily newspaper to see the laserlike focus the Bush administration has taken to rolling back our environmental laws, and while doing so rewarding special interests and corporate polluters. The starkest example is their outright assault on the most bipartisan environmental law of the 20th century, the Clean Air Act. I say bipartisan because leading Republicans and leading Democrats across the political spectrum, in the House and in the Senate, came together to pass the Clean Air Act. My

predecessor, the senior Senator from Vermont, Bob Stafford, was one of those leaders.

You would think of all acts, one that would be put together by Republicans and Democrats would be safe from assault by this Administration. That is not the case.

By stealthy executive fiat, the Administration has dismantled the Clean Air Act bit by bit to let polluting industries off the hook when it comes to cleaning up dirty coal-fired powerplants that each year belch hundreds of thousands of tons of soot and toxic pollutants—pollutants like mercury.

The administration's actions to retreat from strong mercury controls, to undermine current lawsuits against the biggest utility companies, and to allow new coal-fired powerplants to be built without the best controls amounts to a triple whammy for public health and the environment.

We often speak about being family friendly in this body. How do we tell a pregnant mother or a parent with small children how family friendly it is to allow more mercury into our air and into our water and the fish we eat.

When the Clean Air Act was passed, Congress gave coal-fired powerplants a grace period to either clean up or shut down. At the end of the Clinton administration, we were making real progress toward meeting that goal. States such as my State of Vermont, which have been the dumping ground for toxic pollutants like mercury for decades, were finally going to get some relief. But, unfortunately, the only people letting out a sigh of relief now are the CEOs and corporate attorneys in the boardrooms of multibillion dollar energy companies. They are the only ones celebrating this Earth Day.

Despite all of the administration's public relations tactics, I believe the American people are catching on, and enough is enough. To date, this Administration has made well over 300 rollbacks to our environmental protections. Think of that, three years in office and they have had 300 rollbacks of our environmental laws.

There is certainly a lot about which the American people should be outraged. But I think it is important to take note of the strong bipartisan and growing outcry about the Administration's latest retreat from the Clean Air Act in the form of its mercury proposal.

Senators SNOWE, JEFFORDS, DAYTON, and I were joined by 41 other Senators in calling on the administration to withdraw its mercury proposal. The concerns are building so swiftly they may soon reach critical mass.

Look at this map. It gives some indication why the concerns are so great and why the objections are bipartisan.

This is the Environmental Protection Agency's own map: "Mercury Deposition in the United States."

This is the Canadian border along here. Look how the mercury, because they are willing to violate and allow